

# Radical Chronicle

RSS Information Notice

Spring 2000

## Inspections Performed

### APHIS

Phoenix, AZ

Athens, GA

Eugene

### NRCS

Cookeville, TN

### ARS

Phoenix, AZ

Ithaca, NY

Kearneysville, WV

Tifton, GA

### FS

Yreka, CA

Cookville, TN

Oakridge, OR

Roseburg, OR

Parsons, WV

### FSIS

Athens, GA

## NRC Inspections

The NRC recently inspected an NRCS location where the nuclear gauges were stored at a location not listed on the permit. RSS was contacted 3 weeks later by the NRC inspector requesting addition information. The NRCS permit holder did not contact RSS to inform them of the inspection. The Radiation Safety Committee now requires that a location representative contact RSS immediately if they are inspected by the NRC. RSS will work with the location to implement corrective actions if necessary.

## Violations Cited

; **Failure to maintain leak tests for a period of 3 years.** *Sealed sources are required to be leak tested every 6 months; records of these leak tests must be maintained for a period of 3 years.*

; **Failure to receive HazMat training every 3 years.** *Individuals that prepare for shipment or transport hazardous materials (this includes radioactive material) must receive initial hazmat training and receive refresher training every 3 years. This requirement can be met by viewing the slide show and taking the test that is available on our website. Go to [www.usda.gov/da/shmd/HTML](http://www.usda.gov/da/shmd/HTML). Print out and retain a copy of the test for your records.*

## Tentative Inspection Schedule

(June-August)

### APHIS

Otis Air National Guard Base, MA

Fort Collins, CO

### ARS

Beltsville, MD

Miles City, MT

Sidney, MT

Mandan, ND

Prosser, WA

### NRCS

Carthage, MO

Dexter, MO

Jackson, TN

### FS

Moscow, ID

Bend, OR

Lakeview, OR

Colville, OR

Eagle River, WI

Madison, WI

Rhineland, WI

### FSIS

St. Louis, MO

## Requests for Information

The RSS depends on prompt reporting of information from permit holders to maintain compliance with the USDA's NRC license. This information includes permit renewals, quarterly surveys, leak tests, responses to violations cited during inspections, etc. If after 30 days from the due date a response has not been received by RSS, the name of the permit holder will be referred to the permit holder's Agency representative of the Radiation Safety Committee for further action.

## Irradiator Relocation

A Husman irradiator containing 26,000 curies of cesium-137 was recently moved from the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS) Screwworm Sterile Pupae Production Plant in Tuxtla, Mexico to the El Pino Medfly Program Mass Rearing Facility located near Guatemala City, Guatemala. Jack Patterson accompanied APHIS representatives during the transport. The irradiation will be used to sterilize Mediterranean fruit fly pupae for release in support of the pest eradication program in Central America.

The El Pino will now have three irradiators. The Tuxtla facility still has three remaining Husman irradiators.



## New Dosimetry

A new vendor has been selected to provide dosimetry services to USDA. The contract for dosimetry has been awarded to Proxtronics, Inc. Their address is:

5795-B Burke Center Parkway  
Burke, VA 22015  
Telephone: (800) 435-4811  
Website: [www.proxtronics.com](http://www.proxtronics.com)

The new dosimeters will be thermoluminescent detectors (TLD). These dosimeters will continue to be exchanged on a quarterly basis.



## Sealed Source Disposal

AEA Technology Engineering Services, Inc. is a company specializing in the safe handling and disposal of radioactive sealed source material. They have the ability to dispose of sources such as Americium-241, cesium-137 and radium-226. Their services include gauge dismantling, packaging and transport to disposal facilities. They can also provide packaging at your location and transport the sources to the appropriate disposal facility. Contact Richard Yelland at (412) 665-1200 or by email at [yelland@aeatech.com](mailto:yelland@aeatech.com) for more information. Their mailing address is 241 Curry Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-4696 or visit their website at [www.aeat.co.uk/nucsci](http://www.aeat.co.uk/nucsci). Please remember that before transferring sealed sources you must receive prior written approval from RSS.

## Need a Gamma Counter?

The ARS Knippling Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research Lab in Kerrville, Texas has a gamma counter available as surplus. The counter is a Beckman 5500, serial number 8049529, 115V, 60 Hz. It was purchased on 10/14/83 and has not been used since 1984. The counter is available for the cost of shipping it to your location. Contact Kevin Temeyer at (803) 792-0308 or by email at [ktemeyer@krc.com](mailto:ktemeyer@krc.com) or Angie Heimann at [laokerr@krc.com](mailto:laokerr@krc.com) for more information.

## Training Classes

Location Radiation Protection Officer (LRPO) training classes have been scheduled for this fall.

**October 23-27** LRPO Training (this class includes Irradiator Radiation Safety Training) and;

**December 5-7** Train the Trainer Nuclear Gauge Training

Contact Jack Patterson at [jpatterson@rss.usda.gov](mailto:jpatterson@rss.usda.gov) for information and registration.

Two training classes were held at the Texas A&M University to train individuals to provide radiation safety training to nuclear gauge users. Successful completion of the course enables the attendees to present the radiation safety training that is required before an individual can use a nuclear gauge by USDA's NRC license. Congratulations to the following individuals who received this training.

### ARS

Stephan Albrecht, Adams, OR  
Steven Evett, Bushland, TX  
Anne Gibson, Temple, TX  
Robert Kolberg, Sidney, MT  
Gerry Latigo, Weslaco, TX  
Donald Makus, Weslaco, TX  
Matthew Mortenson, Cheyenne, WY  
David Nielsen, Akron, CO  
Dan Palic, Fort Collins, CO  
Phil Smith, College Station, TX  
Donald Tanaka, Mandan, ND

### NRCS

Randy Busbea, Little Rock, AR  
Dennis Clute, Temple, TX  
Joe Freeland, Pauls Valley, OK  
James Gilliam, Jackson, TN  
Herbert Graves, Salina, KS  
Jerry Hughston, Christiansburg, VA  
Cleon Namken, Lubbock, TX  
David Neely, Lexington, KY  
Lee White, Des Moines, IA  
Robin White, Davis, CA  
Robert Wilson, Albuquerque, NM



February 28-March 2, 2000



December 6-9, 1999

**Director**

John Jensen	(301) 504-2440	<a href="mailto:jjensen@rss.usda.gov">jjensen@rss.usda.gov</a>
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**Health Physicists**

Jack Patterson	APHIS ARS: NPA, PWA	(301) 504-2445 <a href="mailto:jpatterson@rss.usda.gov">jpatterson@rss.usda.gov</a>
Lori Powell	FSIS NRCS ARS: BA, SPA	(301) 504-2446 <a href="mailto:lpowell@rss.usda.gov">lpowell@rss.usda.gov</a>
Daniel Sharp	AMS FS GIPSA ARS: NAA, SAA, MSA, MWA	(301) 504-2447 <a href="mailto:drsharp@ars.usda.gov">drsharp@ars.usda.gov</a>

**Permit Operations**

John Elliott	Chief	(301) 504-2443	<a href="mailto:jelliott@rss.usda.gov">jelliott@rss.usda.gov</a>
Sheina Alexander	Office Automation Clerk	(301) 504-2451	<a href="mailto:salexander@ars.usda.gov">salexander@ars.usda.gov</a>
Katina Jones	Health Physics Technician	(301) 504-2444	<a href="mailto:kjones@rss.usda.gov">kjones@rss.usda.gov</a>
Rachel Scott	Office Automation Clerk	(301) 504-2442	<a href="mailto:rscott@rss.usda.gov">rscott@rss.usda.gov</a>
Nicole Smith	Permit Processing Assistant	(301) 504-2440	<a href="mailto:nsmith@rss.usda.gov">nsmith@rss.usda.gov</a>

**FAX: (301) 504-2450**Website: [www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm](http://www.usda.gov/da/shmd/rss1.htm)**Emergency Telephone Numbers:**

Jack Patterson	(240) 463-0433
Lori Powell	(240) 463-0431
Daniel Sharp	(240) 463-0430